

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at a communication device, the communication device including a user-interface member and an actuator;

outputting a request at the communication device, the request relating to a contact with a the user-interface member coupled to a handheld communication device to receive the virtual touch; and

providing a control signal ~~associated with the contact to an~~ the actuator coupled to the handheld communication device in response to the contact with the user-interface member, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

5. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:  
receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at a communication device;  
performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on a handheld communication device; and  
~~receiving a virtual touch signal associated with the initialization; and~~  
outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator coupled to the handheld communication device after performing the initialization.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to a user-interface member coupled to the handheld communication device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request relating to a contact with the user-interface member.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising on which is encoded program code, comprising:

~~program code for receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at a communication device, the communication device including a user-interface member and an actuator;~~

~~program code for outputting a request at the communication device, the request relating to a contact with a the user-interface member to receive the virtual touch coupled to a handheld communication device; and~~

~~program code for providing a control signal in response to the contact with the user-interface member associated with the contact to an the actuator coupled to the handheld communication device, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with virtual touch at the user-interface member.~~

11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the

virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising ~~on which is encoded program code, comprising:~~

~~program code for receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal;~~

~~program code for performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on a handheld communication device; and~~

~~program code for receiving a virtual touch signal associated with the initialization; and~~

~~program code for outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator after performing the initialization.~~

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to a user-interface member coupled to the handheld communication device.

15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the

initialization includes outputting a request relating to a contact with the user-interface member.

17 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ apparatus, comprising:

a user-interface member coupled to a body;

a processor;

an actuator coupled to the body and in communication with the processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing ~~program code~~  
~~code~~instructions executable by the processor, including:

~~instructions~~program code for receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at the apparatus;

~~instructions~~program code for outputting a request relating to a contact with the user-interface member to receive the virtual touch; and

~~instructions~~program code for providing a control signal associated with the contact to the actuator, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the body is included in a handheld communication device.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the handheld communication device

includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a user-interface member;

a processor;

an actuator coupled to the a user-interface member and in communication with the processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing ~~instructions~~program ~~code~~ executable by the processor, including:

instructions~~program code~~ for receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal;

instructions~~program code~~ for performing an initialization responsive to the virtual

touch indicator;

~~program code for receiving a virtual touch signal associated with the initialization;~~ and

~~instructions~~~~program code~~ for outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to the actuator after performing the initialization.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the user-interface member is coupled to a handheld communication device.
26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.
27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.
28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.
29. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a

haptic code or a message.

30. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.